UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/683,532	01/16/2002	Victoria M.E. Bellotti	110143	7732

27074 7590 06/28/2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC.
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER	
CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2145	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/28/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction27074@oliff.com
jarmstrong@oliff.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/683,532	BELLOTTI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Azizul Choudhury	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 March 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935.C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-22 and 25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-22 and 25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 November 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on March 30, 2007.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Implementation of a Workflow-based Web Application with an Electronic Signature Mechanism," by KIM, HyoungJun et al in view of Rienhoff, JR. et al. (US Pub No: US 20020133495A1), hereafter referred to as Kim and Rienhoff, respectively.

1. With regards to claims 1 and 10, Kim teaches through Rienhoff, a method for transmitting workflow-enabled electronic mail message from a user of a workflow system to a recipient, comprising: creating an email message to the recipient by the user, the recipient who does not have access to the workflow system (It is

inherent that since email is sent, it is created; p. 4, left column, last paragraph, Kim); determining a network address (p. 4, right column, function 3, Kim); embedding a link to the determined network address in the email message to the recipient (p. 3, left column, 1st paragraph); associating a process of the workflow system with the determined network address (p. 4, right column, function 3, Kim); and sending the email message having the link to the determined network address to the recipient, wherein the link provides the recipient with an access to the associated process of the workflow system (p. 3, left column, 1st paragraph and p. 2, right column, lines 9-22, Kim).

(Kim however, does not explicitly cite that the recipient does not have access to the workflow system prior to receipt of the email. In the same field of endeavor, Rienhoff teaches how a user gains access to a secured area of a site after clicking on a link that can be received through an email (paragraph 112, Rienhoff). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art, during the time of the invention, to combine the teachings of Kim with those of Rienhoff, to restrict access to secure content.

2. With regards to claims 2 and 11, Kim teaches the method wherein determining the network address comprises selecting the network address from a list of predefined network addresses (p. 3, right column, section "Standard Roadmap and Database Module," Kim).

3. With regards to claims 3 and 12, Kim teaches the method wherein determining the network address comprises generating the network address (p. 4, right column, function 3, Kim).

4. With regards to claims 4 and 13, Kim teaches the method wherein generating the network address comprises randomly or pseudo-randomly generating the network address (p. 2, 2nd column, lines 25-43 and p. 3, 1st column, lines 2-4, Kim).

5. With regards to claims 5 and 14, Kim teaches the method wherein generating the network address comprises generating the network address based on at least in part on information about at least one of at least the created email message, the recipient, the workflow process and the user (p. 2, 2nd column, lines 25-43 and p. 3, 1st column, lines 2-4, Kim).

6. With regards to claims 6 and 15, Kim teaches the method further comprising associating the determined network address with the email message (Figure 2, Kim).

7. With regards to claims 7 and 16, Kim teaches the method wherein associating the determined network address with the email message comprises associating an email address of the recipient to which the created email will be sent with the

determined network address (It is inherent that an email address of the recipient must be attached to an email if the email is to be sent).

8. With regards to claims 8, 17, 18 and 19, Kim teaches the method wherein: determining a network address comprises determining a plurality of different network addresses (p. 3, section "Standard Roadmap and Database Module," Kim); and embedding a link to the determined network address into the email message to the recipient comprises embedding a plurality of links into the email message, each link being to one of the plurality of determined network addresses (p. 3, left column, 1st paragraph, Kim).

   (While Kim does not specifically cite the embedding of multiple links within a single email, Official notice is hereby taken that it is well known in the art, that a plurality of links can be embedded within an email, for the purpose of sending multiple links without using multiple messages).

9. With regards to claims 9 and 20, Kim teaches the method wherein associating a process of the workflow system with the determined network address comprises associating a different state of the associated process of the workflow system with each of the plurality of determined network addresses (p. 4, right column, function 3 and component 3, Kim).

   (While Kim does not specifically cite the embedding of multiple links within a single email, Official notice is hereby taken that it is well known in the art, that a

plurality of links can be embedded within an email, for the purpose of sending multiple links without using multiple messages).

10. With regards to claim 21, Kim teaches a method for accessing a workflow process using a workflow-enabled email message, comprising: receiving the workflow-enabled email message that includes a link to a network address associated with the workflow process, wherein the network address is specific to the workflow process and to the email message; selecting the link to access the network address, wherein, in response, the workflow system provides access to the workflow process (p. 3, left column, 1st paragraph and p. 2, right column, lines 9-22, Kim).

11. With regards to claim 22, Kim teaches the method further comprising: receiving a request to provide authentication from the workflow system in response to selecting the link; and providing the requested authentication to the workflow system, the workflow system denying access to the workflow process if the requested authentication is not valid (p. 4, right column, component 4, Kim).

12. With regards to claim 25, Kim teaches the method wherein determining the network address further comprises: excluding generated network addresses that have previously been embedded in any previous email messages created by the system that have not yet been accessed (p. 2, 2nd column, lines 25-43, Kim).

13. The obviousness motivation applied in claims 1 and 10 are applicable to claims 2-9, 11-22 and 25

Remarks

The amendment received on March 30, 2007 has been carefully examined but is not deemed fully persuasive. The following are the examiner's responses to the remarks presented within the amendment.

The first point of contention addressed by the applicant concerns claims 4-5, and 13-14. The applicant contends that the Kim art does not teach the randomly or pseudo-randomly generating of network addresses. The examiner disagrees with this assertion. Kim teaches this trait in p. 2, 2nd column, lines 25-43 and p. 3, 1st column, lines 2-4. It is taught

The second point of contention involves the concept of embedding more than one link within an email. The applicant contends that Kim does not teach such a feature and is not capable of supporting such a feature. While Kim does not teach such a feature, it is well known in the art and Official Notice is being taken by the examiner to state that the concept of embedding a plurality of links within an email is well known in the art. In addition, the concept of embedding a plurality of links is not impossible within Kim's design since one link is already embedded within an email within the design.

The final point of contention involves the trait of "excluding generating network addresses that have been embedded in previous emails but have not been accessed."

The applicant contends that Kim does not teach such a feature; the examiner disagrees. Kim teaches in the second column of page 2, within lines 25-40, that the data within the email (including the URL) can be encrypted to prevent it from being exposed. Hence, the URL within each email is unique.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AC

JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER